

2008

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UK, WKU will offer public link to Internet

By RIC MANNING 5-29-95
Business Writer CJa

A new computer service backed by the University of Kentucky and Western Kentucky University will deliver public access to the global Internet computer network to almost every corner of the state.

UK On Line and Western On-Line will be available in more than 15 counties by the end of the summer, school officials said yesterday.

The service, offered through MCI, is aimed at students, faculty members and school alumni. But private individuals, called "friends of the university," will also be allowed to subscribe.

"I guess a friend of Western is anyone who feels friendly toward the university," said Charles Anderson, assistant vice president for finance and administration at Western.

Students, faculty and alumni will pay \$12 a month for up to 15 hours of Internet access. Other subscribers will pay \$17 a month.

Both UK and Western offer Internet access to students and faculty on their main campuses. But both schools have been searching for an economical way to bring the Internet to their satellite campuses.

Jefferson Community College, for example, has Internet access in the school's library, but not from most other computers at the school.

"There is an immense demand out there for the Internet," said Jon Hesseldenz, director of technology for UK's community college system. "It has incredible academic resources."

"Our problem has been, how could we get access to everyone at a reasonable cost?" said Doyle Friskney, UK's executive director of communication and network services. "We decided we couldn't do it alone."

The deal with MCI will cost UK and Western nothing. The schools will provide some technical and marketing support and MCI will keep all of the revenue from the subscriptions.

The arrangement will also make the Internet available in communities that don't have access from any other source. Louisville and Lexington have com-

Public offered Internet link

Continued from Back Page 5-29-95
CJa

mercial services that sell Internet accounts, but residents in smaller communities would have to pay long-distance fees to use them.

Access to UK On Line and Western On-Line will be a local call from anywhere the schools have a regional campus. Friskney estimated that between 75 percent and 80 percent of the state's residents could have local access through UK On Line.

The services will also be available through an 800 number for a fee of 10 cents a minute.

The Internet offers electronic access to thousands of libraries, government agencies, schools, research centers and business and entertainment services around the world.

New millennium no problem for city, WKU

By the Daily News 9-12-96 ON

Western Kentucky University and city government representatives say their computer systems will be ready when 2000 arrives.

"I don't think it's going to be the panic that everyone is predicting," city finance Director Kirby Ramsey said.

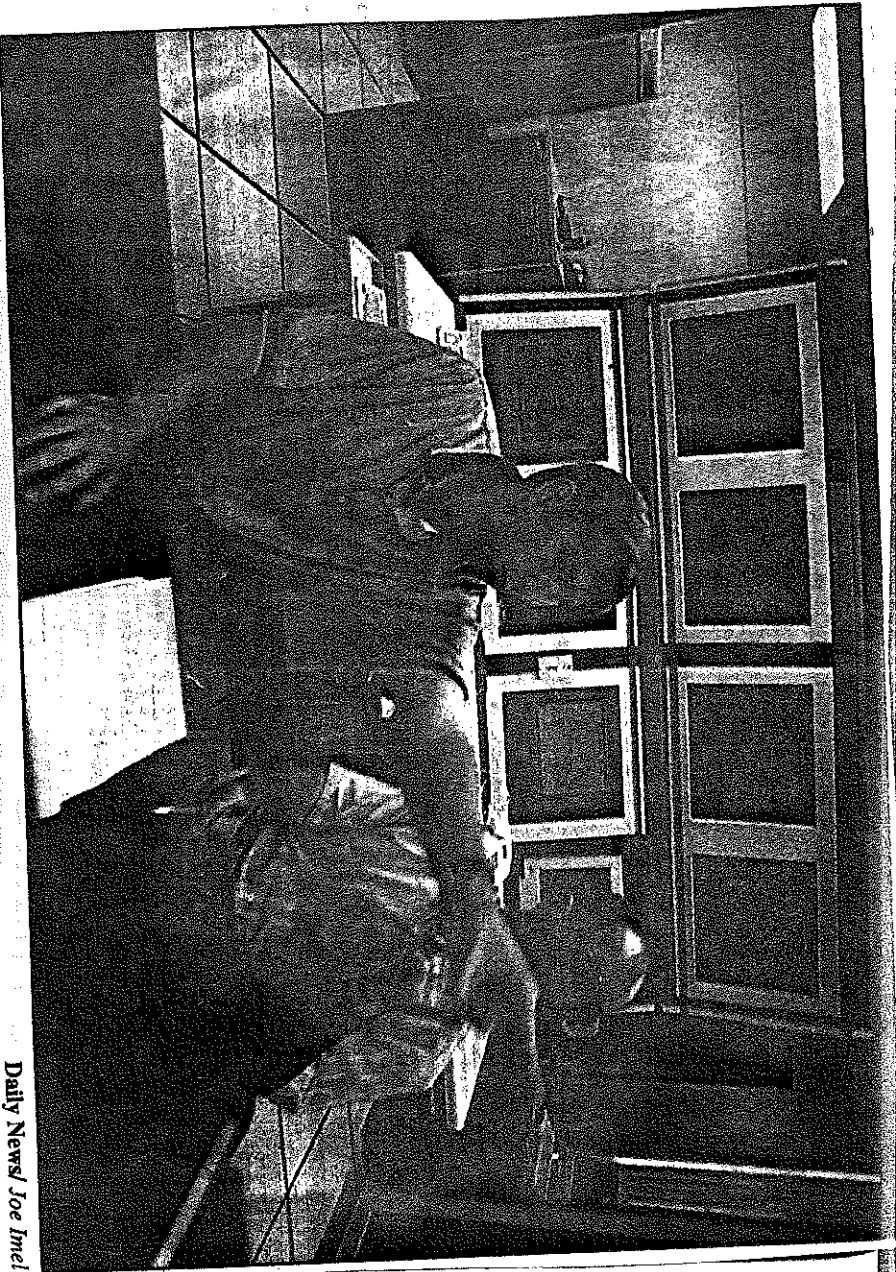
Those who continue to use software programs developed in the 1960s or 1970s, which read only read two spaces for each year, will face problems, said Charles Anderson, vice president of information and technology at Western Kentucky University.

The older computers use a two-digit dating system, so 1999 is read as 99 and 2000 would be read as 00. Computers would interpret that as 1900.

Anderson said most of Western's 12 mainframe systems are 2000 compliant and other software systems will be updated or replaced well before 2000.

Ramsey said the city has its public safety system ready for 2000 and will update other systems to handle the next century.

Warren County Clerk Yvonne Guy, whose office handles thousands of records each month, said she will be talking with software vendors to see what needs to be done for the system that indexes deeds, marriage licenses, mortgages, liens and other items. The state will be responsible for handling the system that tracks motor vehicle registration and voter registration, she said.



Daily News/ Joe Innel

Brent Edwards (left), Western Kentucky University network services student employee from Bowling Green, explains test data to Chuck Wimpee, senior systems programmer, in the university's mainframe computer room.

■ Why the fuss? Computers will never •\$tj9iføsjrti

By SCOTT SISCO June 22, 1998

The Daily News

Computers seem to run the world today. In about 18 months, these computers had better be ready or the world might be in trouble.

There are fears that the world's computers will lock up on Jan. 1, 2000, because of a programming glitch that might leave the machines incapable of determining whether it is 2000, 1900 or even 2500.

While companies are implementing plans to counteract this problem, no one really knows what will happen.

"We looked at everything possible and then some," said Marilyn Wingfield, manager of information systems and employee benefits for Bowling Green Municipal Utilities.

A BGMU committee that was formed in December to address the problem has found some software that's too outdated to upgrade to handle the Year 2000 problem. That software is being replaced and other systems are getting upgrades, she said.

BGMU hopes to have its systems ready for the year 2000 by the end of this year. The utility is almost there, Wingfield said.

So, while computer systems might be crashing elsewhere, don't worry about the lights going out at your New Year's Eve party.

"It would have to be something that we really missed," Wingfield said.

At Western Kentucky University, "we're well aware of the problem and we've been working on it for a while," said Chuck Wimpee, senior systems programmer for administrative computing.

The university has been working on the project for more than a year and will spend coming months further peering into potential problems, Wimpee said.

"If we're lucky, most people will get off easy," Wimpee said.

One fear of the Year 2000 problem is that airplanes could start falling from the sky because of

W

The Year 2000
problem is closer
than you might
think... and could
create problems
you never expected

Exactly what will happen? No one knows for sure

By SCOTT SISCO

The Daily News

Only 557 days until the new millennium. Is your computer ready?

Because of older microchips, the year 2000 could cause computers across the world to malfunction.

The problem arises because many computers use only the final two digits to read the year in the date. To save space and memory, the century was omitted from the date in computer programs.

This system will work fine until the century rolls over. Then, on Jan. 1, 2000, some computers will not know if it is 2000, 1900 or 2500. No one knows exactly what this will do to the systems.

"The problem is simple," said Chuck Wimpee, senior systems

See PROBLEMS, 2A

ing to Paul Takemoto, a spokesman for the FAA in Washington, D.C. The \$161.5 million project has included 655 computer systems across the nation, and all of the changes should be made by Sept. 30. The changes will be tested and retested by March 1999, he said.

So how widespread might the problem be?

Anything with a microchip could be affected, said Scott Curtis, network engineer for Computeland of Bowling Green.

The Medical Center in September appointed a 31-member task force to check the hospital's inventory, evaluate equipment for possible problems and contact vendors for information on the equipment.

Equipment that vendors say could possibly fail in 2000 will be tested beginning in December. Most of the equipment so far can be updated to work properly in the new millennium.

National City Bank has been working on the problem since 1995. President Eddie Barber said. Workers are getting new hardware and evaluating applications as part of a \$50 million project, "but things are going to fall through the cracks," Barber said.

AAA Systems' alarm systems do not depend on the year to let people

widespread computer failures.

The Federal Aviation Administration started planning for the year 2000 problem last summer, according to

See YEAR 2000, 2A

replace or upgrade them, he said.

The firm sent letters to its clients about the year 2000 problem, and the company newsletter contains several articles urging customers to take this problem seriously.

BGMU's Wingfield agreed that the problem could be serious. Take your age and subtract it from the year 2000, but just use the 00. Your age comes out negative. Wingfield said that's what makes this so bad for computers.

"I think everyone's waited too long to see how serious this problem is," Harrison said. "There's no magic solution for this whole problem."

▲ PROBLEMS

From Page One

programmer for administrative computing at Western Kentucky University. "You just need that piece of information."

Getting that information is the hard part. In some systems, millions of lines of code must be read to fix the problem. Some systems are so old that the company that made them won't support Year 2000 upgrades.

While some companies are ready for the millennium, companies they work with might not be, Wimpee said. This could set off a domino affect, shutting down several companies just because one company isn't Year 2000-compliant.

IBM is encouraging customers to

accelerate plans in testing equipment for the year 2000. IBM also offers a list of its computers on the Internet and what it takes to get each ready for the year 2000.

Many systems that control such things as elevators, control valves on pacemakers, electronic vaults, electronic door locks and videocassette recorders are not Year 2000-ready.

Hospital systems also might be affected.

Anything with a microchip that does calculations with the date could fail.

"I wouldn't want to be on a respirator when the year rolls over," Wimpee said.

With a mouse click, some WKU students enter class

■ Online courses have pluses and minuses for those on The Hill

By WILLIAM DEAN 9/2/98
The Daily News

With a convenient click online, some Western Kentucky University students are getting an education without having to tread The Hill.

Ten online classes allow students to get their lessons, class requirements, grading scales and other information through e-mail. It's a concept foreign to most Western students.

Students "were doubtful" when told during the first class that they would have to visit cyberspace to

complete the course, said Allan Heaps, who teaches an English 300 class online. "I could see in their faces they weren't real comfortable with the idea."

Some of Heaps' students aren't comfortable with the lack of information posted on the web page, he said. He still is deciding what information to include.

Students also have expressed concern about the number of words and pages to read, but Heaps says his concern is whether students are getting anything out of the readings.

Readings are discussed in bulletin board and chat room features of the online site. English 300 is a writing class that does not require exams.

Heaps started the online class this

year because of what he calls its advantages to students.

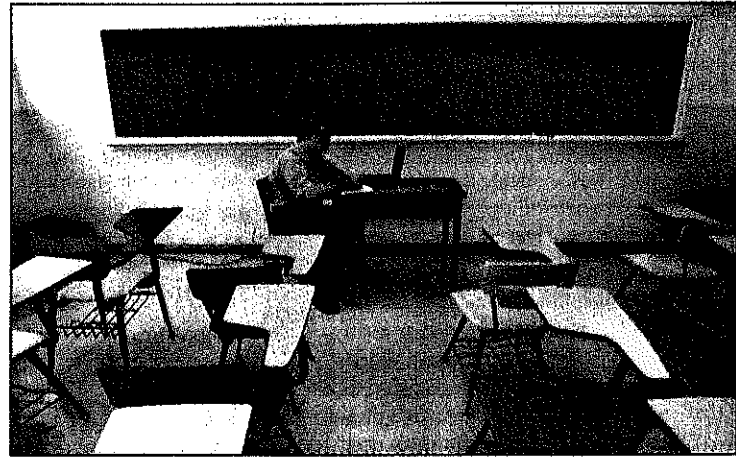
"It wasn't that I didn't like face-to-face contact," he said, adding that students can visit him any time.

His e-mail address, office address and telephone number at Tate Page Hall are included on the web page for students who request a meeting, he said.

Convenience for students and instructors is a touted benefit.

"From the students' point of view, the primary reason to do it is access," said Sally Kuhlenschmidt, director of Western's center of teaching and learning. She teaches an online course to faculty members

See ONLINE, 2A



Daily News/Joe Imel

Western Kentucky University instructor Allan Heaps waits for students to arrive in a Cherry Hall classroom on Monday. Heaps teaches an English 300 class online. He was waiting for students who want to add his course but who didn't know that it's offered online.

▲ ONLINE

From Page One

who want to learn how to teach online.

An Internet-based or online course may be the only way time- and place-bound students can get an education, she said. Western's hilly campus can be a challenge for disabled students.

Students can access online courses when they choose, an advantage unless students procrastinate, Heaps said. Some students have logged onto the course as late as 11:30 p.m.

Young students entering college, who gain more than just content from courses, find a face-to-face course more suitable than Internet-based courses, Kuhlenschmidt said. Online courses are more suitable for adult learners because of the self-discipline and self-regulation required, she said.

Teachers benefit from online work in part because they have less

discipline to deal with, Kuhlenschmidt said. It also may suit the instructor's style of teaching, because online courses enhance one-on-one communication, she said.

"I have better contact with the student than I would get with just regular mail," said Linda Uhlenkott, who teaches a correspondence English 300 course. She was among the first to teach online courses in the spring.

Students who would be shy in class tend to "feel a little bit more anonymous and a little safer" in e-mail, she said.

While Heaps likes not having to walk The Hill to get to class, he also likes not having to be in a classroom at a set time. Instead of structuring his day around a class, he schedules it on the web page when he can, he said.

8/2/98

CAMPUS Computer NEWS

College Store Executive

April 1998

APPLE OPENS ON-LINE SALES TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Just six months after Apple Computer introduced the Apple Store as a web site for consumers to buy standard and custom-configured Macintoshes, the company is extending its on-line sales program to colleges and universities beginning with institutional purchases.

Beginning April 30, Apple will open the on-line sales program to college and university departments responsible for executing institutional computer equipment purchases.

Bookstores and other campus departments get an opportunity to enter the program later this year. Apple would not give a specific start date but expects to make it available in time for the start of fall semester classes.

Apple expects on-line sales to supplement, not replace traditional retail venues with display areas and demonstration units. "The existing systems don't go away," said John Santoro, Apple's education market spokesman. "They [resellers] all want to go to on-line sales."

Slimmer Inventory

The advantage of on-line sales is that institutional purchasers or retailers can order standard configurations as well as models built either to customer specifications or the school's computing department recommendations, Santoro said. "Under this new scenario, we think this is going to generally help our volume."

Other advantages include the opportunity to reduce the amount of inventory stored on site based on sales estimates or operate stock less with all orders filled on line and lower transaction costs, Santoro explained.

Campus links to Apple's on-line sales program will be maintained as part of the web site for the school's computer

— Page 69, Apple On-Line

By Ken Baglino

When it comes to teaching an introductory computing class, Western Kentucky University gives students a choice: crack open a book to read about hardware and software operation or take a crack at learning directly on a computer.

The class, CIS 241: Introduction to Computer Information Systems, is a computer literacy course designed to familiarize students with basic hardware components and operating common software packages in preparation for employment

spreadsheet and graphics presentation software packages plus other course materials, all of which is kept on line at a web site for the course.

Asked to describe what it is like teaching CIS 241 on line compared with the traditional classroom sections, Robert Bretz, associate professor of information systems at Western Kentucky, said it is very quiet because students are concentrating on the computer screen, not listening to or participating in discussion with the professor.

ACADEMIC COMPUTING GAINS LARGER PRESENCE

Fees being imposed to offset the cost of making access to computing universal in higher education is just one sign of the increasing reliance on information technology on campus, according to results of the seventh annual Campus Computing Project.

Overall, results of the 1997 survey indicate rising access to and ownership of computing equipment among faculty and students plus increased planning by institutions for computers on campus.

But most observable are the survey results that demonstrate the proliferation of applications for use in the classroom as well as elsewhere in campus academic life, all aimed at enhancing instruction.

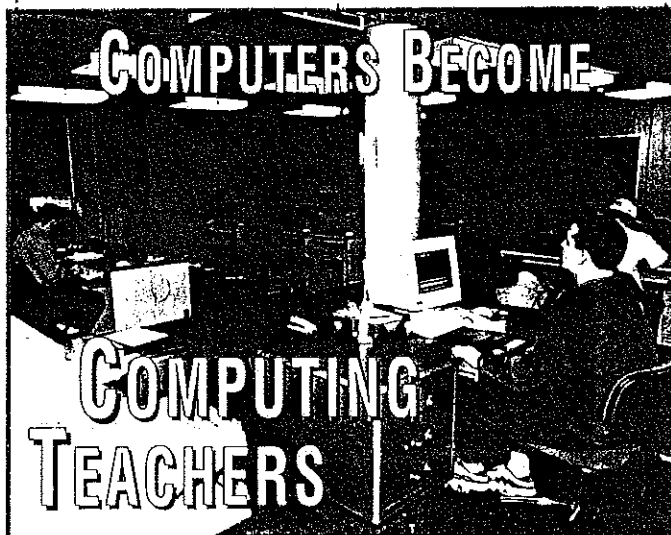
Electronic mail, the Internet, the World Wide Web and multimedia are increasingly common components of the instructional experience for growing numbers of American college students; the survey concludes.

College courses that utilize e-mail rose to 32.8 percent in 1997 from 25 percent in 1996 and 8 percent in 1994. Classes that draw on resources available over the Internet grew to 24.8 percent last year from 15.3 percent in 1996. Meanwhile, some form of multimedia resource is used in 13.4 percent of all college courses, up from 8.4 percent in 1996 and 4 percent two years earlier.

Consequently, the application of computing in higher education is constantly evolving along anticipated lines, said Kenneth Green, director of the Campus Computing Project and a visiting scholar at Claremont Graduate University, in Claremont, Calif. "It's not as if something emerges by surprise."

Nonetheless, cost continues to be the biggest factor affecting the growth of computing in higher education. Not only is the infrastructure and training necessary to make campus access universal expensive but constant upgrades of hardware

— Page 64, Academic Computing



after graduation.

Since computer literacy is required in 80 percent of all degree programs at Western Kentucky, the university decided make web-based, self-paced class sections available on line as a solution to surging student demand without significantly increasing faculty.

Students taking the on-line sections of CIS 241, which were added in January, still report to class, but that's where the similarity to traditional classroom instruction ends. Instead of following a professor's instruction and completing all work and reading assignments according to a class schedule, students work at their own pace using personal computers to access training and evaluation modules for word processing,

"It's eerie as a matter of fact, and it takes some getting used to," Bretz said. "The thing that comes to mind is there is no lecture to speak of and no note taking on the part of the students."

The goal is for students to complete the training and evaluation modules in class when a professor is available to answer questions about the course work as well as outside by working on any computer connected to the university's local area network.

Even the textbook, which is the same edition used for the course last semester, is available on-line as well as in print. It explains computer fundamentals, forming a foundation for students to make decisions when buying or using hardware, but

— Page 70, Computing Teachers

NOW ON-LINE! <http://www.ccnonline.com>



Computing Teachers

— From Page 61

does not explain software functions.

Despite the tradition-breaking nature of on-line teaching, print textbooks remain popular. In a survey of less than 80 students taking the class, 80 percent bought the course materials package, which includes the paperback textbook and a CD-ROM.

Three Assumptions

Western Kentucky founded the on-line course sections for CIS 241 on three assumptions: students learning at their own pace will complete one topic and move on the next instead of everyone in the class advancing at the same pace; students need a computer to learn to use one; and students are goal oriented, they take a course with the goal of completing the material and getting out.

As a result of the on-line, self-paced approach, which Western Kentucky introduced in January, students are completing the course work faster and advancing to higher level skills than in traditional class sections. "The average on the exams are not statistically different than they were under the traditional approach," said Linda Johnson, co-chair of management and information systems and an associate professor of information systems at Western Kentucky. "It's worked out better than I thought it would."

After seven weeks of the 16-week semester, many have completely tested out of the basic, intermediate and advanced application portions of the class for Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint, but still need to take final exams. Results show that 83 percent of students have completed the basic Microsoft Word modules, 74 percent the basic Excel modules and 68 percent the basic PowerPoint modules.

"That would have never been possible under a traditional approach because we wouldn't have gotten to PowerPoint until the last two weeks of the class," Johnson said. "Here the students can choose to work on whatever they want to work on."

Meanwhile, 90 percent of students taking the on-line sections of CIS 241 claim to have intermediate-level computer skills. "I would say that's probably pretty accurate," Johnson said.

Also contributing to the success is the age group taking the class on line. "We

were smart enough to try it on the traditional 18- to 20-year-old students who have grown up in the computer age," Bretz said, explaining that it may not have been received as well by older age groups, such as working adults returning to school.

Students who complete course work ahead of schedule could be given more assignments but Johnson contends they were motivated and should be given the opportunity to concentrate on other courses instead. "They shouldn't be penalized for

looks and clicking on an icon. "That's the monkey-see-monkey-do approach," Johnson said.

Meanwhile, demand for the class grew to the point that more sections were needed but faculty were not being added; in fact, vacancies were not being filled and pressure was building to find an alternative way to expand capacity for CIS 241 students.

In January there were 1,316 student requests for the CIS 241 but only 400 seats available, nearly double the 225 students enrolled in the class last fall. Meanwhile, faculty instructors for CIS 241 diminished by one in 1991 and another vacancy was added two years later, lowering the total to five.

Attempting to convince the administration to fill the vacant positions, faculty reduced the number of students per class section, but the positions remained vacant. As a result, students ended up being closed out of the introductory class until they were seniors. "You don't have a change to apply very much of what you've learned, Johnson said.

Another strategy was needed, and it led to creating a multimedia classroom for up to 150 students by investing \$30,000 to install a projector and other equipment in a 452-seat auditorium.

Still, the auditorium renovation still did not increase Western Kentucky's ability to offer the entry-level computer literacy class and the vacant faculty positions

porary workers. "We just established this relationship with Kelly in fall of '97," said Howard Weiner, regional sales manager for MacMillan Computer Publishing QE&T.

Western Kentucky integrated some of the components into a web-based curriculum with all components for the course available on line. "A lot of schools are looking to this product for pre- and post-assessment," Weiner said. "Linda [Johnson] is the first to implement it in a turnkey system."

Students begin by clicking on the PinPoint icon, logging on and giving their identification, choosing a module for either Microsoft Windows 95, Word, PowerPoint or Excel, downloading it onto the computer they are working on and launching it.

Each module is designed to teach and evaluate based on different skill levels. Windows 95 has only basic and advanced while Word, PowerPoint and Excel add an intermediate level. Each module asks students to complete 25 tasks.

Training modules can be worked on any time, but evaluation testing and exams must be completed during scheduled class periods. Class meets three times one week and twice the following week, for a total of five meetings every two weeks. Classes are held in two microcomputer labs of 48 and 20 computers each.

Decisions affecting course structure, the products used, web site design, and the role of teaching assistants were made by Johnson, Bretz and Jack Stallard while the multimedia video clip used to introduce the class was created by Tom Dillon and Jerry Post.

"This project here has been a very collaborative event between the information systems faculty," Johnson explained.

In addition, the dean's office provided nearly \$16,000, which was used to purchase a server to distribute the course data plus the license for the software needed to connect with the campus network.

Tradition Lives On

While Western Kentucky U. still has not reach its goal for meeting demand for this course, the on-line instruction brought it a step closer and will be expanded next semester.

Capacity for CIS 241 increased for this semester to 400 seats with two traditional and seven on-line sections. Next fall, the number of sections grows to eight electronic and three traditional. "We have a high demand for this class."

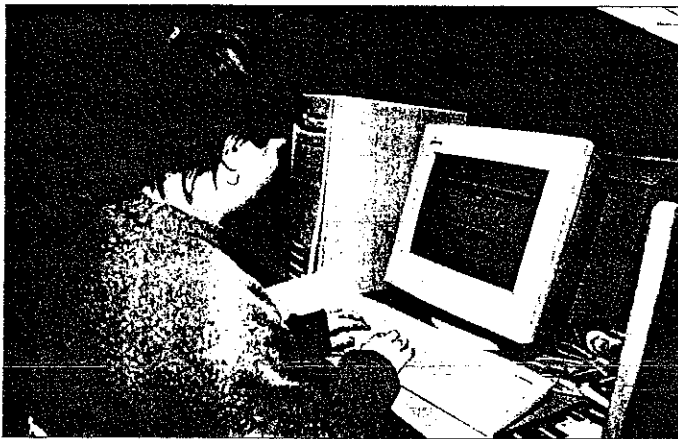
Ironically, Western Kentucky plans to fill the two faculty positions that have remained vacant since 1991 in response to growing enrollment for the course, even with the on-line instruction capability.

On-line instruction is promising for computer literacy as well as other academic subjects but will probably not replace the traditional classroom approach. "I don't know that we'll ever ditch that," Johnson said.

Some students prefer or learn better with traditional classroom computer literacy instruction. Reasons are being researched, but Johnson explained that older, non-traditional or learning disabled are two types of students that seem to learn better with regular classroom instruction.

Mainly it reduces faculty needed to teach the course while increasing enrollment. "I think it changes the role of the faculty member" to a facilitator, not a purveyor of information," Johnson said. "Some faculty might find this frightening."

—CCN



taking the initiative."

Functionally, the program has also operated well, considering that this is the first semester for on-line sections. Bretz said the network has held up under the heavy use and that the few minor problems have been software related. Occasionally, he said, applications freeze and students need to restart the computer they were using. The most consistent glitch involves the basic level training and evaluation module of Microsoft PowerPoint, which crashes once out of 20 times, he said.

Going On Line

Until the CIS 241 on-line sections began in January, Western Kentucky taught computer literacy in the same way that many colleges do. Students get traditional classroom instruction to learn terminology plus lab time for hands on experience while following a textbook that explains step by step every detail, such as turning on the computer, how the screen

remained. "We kept thinking there's got to be a better way to teach this course," Johnson said.

Gradually, an on-line instruction program began to take shape. The goal was to preserve student credit-hour production in a self-paced environment while being able to verify course work as well as measure proficiency.

A consideration was choosing an instructional software package. "Most of the simulated trainers were not something we wanted to pursue because it's not the live application," Johnson said.

The PinPoint software package from MacMillan Publishing QE&T was selected to teach as well as test proficiency by scoring correct responses and how long the user takes to complete tasks in Microsoft Windows 95, Word, PowerPoint and Excel.

PinPoint was developed by Kelly Business Services as a self-paced training and evaluation package for placement of tem-

Army invades WKU

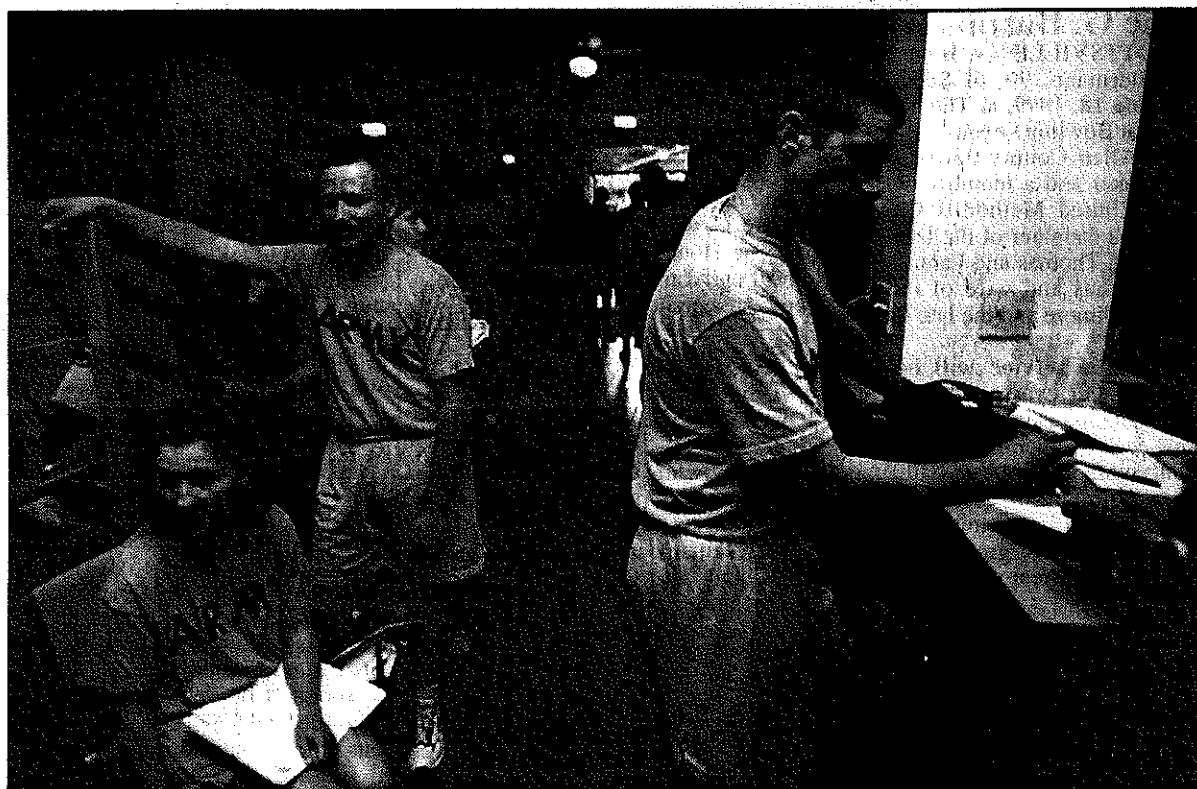
By MATT PEDIGO
The Daily News

For the next two weeks, about 150 Army soldiers will occupy the South Hall Dormitory at Western Kentucky University for computer classes in Grise Hall and Downing University Center.

Headed by the 100th Division, Fifth Battalion personnel unit, Army and National Guard reservists from several divisions nationwide arrived Saturday to receive computer training to handle the Army's financial and supply paperwork. Army tactical field computers will also be used.

"It's certainly an atypical environment for us," Lt. Col. Jimmy Halfacre said. "We're here because the university has the computer assets we need: 100 Pentium computers. The Army has become highly technical these days, and soldiers have to be trained accordingly. The facilities here are very capable, and we're delighted to be here."

In addition to providing needed training, the course is also considered essential for promotions. Many of the trainees are seeking reclassification, which involves training soldiers in different technological



Daily News/ Clinton Lewis

Army reservist Jon Crosby (right) of Jackson, Miss., receives a meal card during the check-in process at South Hall on the campus of Western Kentucky University on Saturday. About 150 reservists are in town for a two-week computer training session.

fields, soldier and WKU Institutional Research Director Bob Cobb said.

"The students are highly motivated," Cobb said. "This is the right environment; facilities are geared for classroom work. This promotes the university, because these are future students and parents of future

students we're training here."

"This will put me in a better position to get a promotion," supply specialist Shannon Bailey of Jackson, Miss., said of his financial training. "That's what I'm hoping for."

Cobb said Western's facilities were needed because rapid

advances in technology have temporarily left the Army short of training equipment.

"We (the Army) have older equipment. We're at a transition point right now. But in the meantime, we contracted with the university. It's a win-win situation for both," Cobb said.

Daily Times

12/19/99

13

WKU prepared for Y2K

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University doesn't expect any problems from the Y2K bug, Vice President for Information Technology Richard Kirchmeyer says.

"As far as we know, we're all set to go," Dr. Kirchmeyer said of Western's efforts to make sure computer systems are Y2K compliant. "What we're planning for, of course, is a power outage, but we don't expect one."

In the past few weeks, Western officials have been putting the finishing touches on a Y2K contingency plan. "We're going to be worrying about the people, the infrastructure and the computers/network," Dr. Kirchmeyer said.

If a power outage occurs early on Jan. 1, computer systems shouldn't be affected because Western will be closed for the holidays. A power outage, however, would affect about 50 students who'll be on campus and staying in Pearce-Ford Tower.

That's why Western has developed a Y2K plan for those students. "We'd rather be safe than sorry," said Brian Kuster, director of Housing and Residence Life.

Among the precautions being taken:

- * Residents are encouraged to have a flashlight, extra batteries, extra blankets and a three-day supply of nonperishable food and bottled water.

- * Pearce-Ford Tower elevators will be shut down from 11:45 p.m. Dec. 31 to 12:15 a.m. Jan. 1. Kuster said the elevators have been tested and are Y2K compliant, but the University isn't taking any chances.

"We really expect ourselves to be in pretty good shape," Dr. Kirchmeyer said. "But there might be

some stuff lurking out there that we don't know about. And when we find it, we'll deal with it."

Western has been checking computer systems, hardware and software for Y2K problems since 1998. "I can tell there was a lot of time spent on this," said Dr. Kirchmeyer, who came to Western this fall. Y2K problems may occur in computers that recognize "00" as 1900 and make errors in computations.

Employees in Information Technology, Facilities Management and Public Safety will be among those on duty Jan. 1 checking computer systems, facilities and other infrastructure. As part of the Jan. 1 communication plan, Dr. Kirchmeyer will receive a report at 1 a.m. on the status of power to campus. At 8 a.m. Jan. 1, he'll receive a report on facilities and infrastructure. Between 8 and 11 a.m., Information Technology employees will check all computer systems, mainframes and network.

At 11 a.m. Jan. 1, those groups will meet and assess the situation. Dr. Kirchmeyer will then issue a status report to WKU President Gary Ransdell and other officials. When campus offices reopen Jan. 3, Dr. Kirchmeyer will send an E-mail to faculty and staff updating them on Y2K status.

Dr. Kirchmeyer has encouraged faculty and staff to upgrade their systems and check the Information Technology's Y2K web page. "As far as we know, our facilities infrastructure and our mainframe computer are Y2K compliant so I don't expect any problems," he said.

Problems may occur on a smaller scale. "We'll probably be dealing with Y2K desktop problems until summer," Dr. Kirchmeyer said.

Daily News

1/2/00

6A

WKU reports it's A-OK with Y2K

By the Daily News

Western Kentucky University expects computer business as usual Monday, and regional law enforcement agencies reported no unusual New Year's Eve activity.

A news release Saturday said the university appears to have avoided the bite of the Y2K bug.

Division of Information Technology and Facilities Management staff spent Saturday morning checking

various computer, telephone and facilities systems, according to Richard Kirchmeyer, vice president for information technology.

He does expect some problems with older, personal computers as faculty and staff return from the holiday break, and those will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, he said.

KSP in Frankfort reported that the transition into the new millennium

was "exceptionally smooth," with no problems reported from the 16 posts across the state. Troopers statewide logged 127 arrests with charges of driving under the influence.

Bowling Green police reported a relatively calm night for New Year's Eve. Extra officers were on duty in case problems arose. Three people were arrested on DUI charges; 11 people were arrested and charged with alcohol intoxication.

January 11, 2000

Herald

Y2K problems pass by world, Western with minor glitches

Computer staff planning pays off

By JIM GAINES
Herald reporter

After months of Y2K hype, the dreaded date passed smoothly around the world. Troubleshooters dealt quickly with the few minor problems that surfaced, and Western was no exception.

Information Technology staff came in on Saturday, Jan. 1, to fix any emergent problems but found themselves with little to do. They spent their time fixing a few non-Y2K-related problems, Vice President for Information Technology Richard Kirchmeyer said in an e-mail to faculty and staff.

"Thanks to a lot of people in the Information Technology division, we came into Y2K relatively unscathed," he said.

That's because the department worked for months anticipating problems and preventing them, said Jim Sanders, academic technology director. In his department, it appears they did a thorough job.

"If there's a Y2K problem anywhere in student computing, I don't know about it," Sanders said.

There have been few calls to the Information Technology Help Desk since it reopened Jan. 3, said Dave Beckley, network computing and communications director. The majority of those

"Just because we rolled over doesn't mean everything's fine. It just means major operating systems ... are OK."

— Gordon Johnson

administrative computing services director

have been questions, not problems.

On Jan. 6, Western's Internet and e-mail access broke down for a few hours, and went down again briefly on Jan. 9. But neither of those problems were Y2K-related, Beckley said.

The Jan. 6 problem was caused by Cable and Wireless, run by MCI, which used to provide Western's Internet access. Western's old connection was reassigned to another user but not reactivated, so information coming from Western ran into a dead-end loop four steps down the line. On Sunday, the second stage in Western's connection, through the state Department of Information Services, broke down but was soon restored, Beckley said.

Elsewhere in Western's computer system, planning and prompt action paid off again.

"We actually had one fairly significant Y2K problem the morning of Jan. 1, but we were able to resolve it within about three hours," said Gordon Johnson, administrative computing services director. It was an older piece of software, so they simply ordered a new version

from the vendor.

Johnson anticipates finding some problems later on, not just at Western but worldwide. Problems will be found until systems run through a complete business cycle, up to those functions used only once a year, he said.

"Just because we rolled over doesn't mean everything's fine," Johnson said. "It just means major operating systems ... are OK."

For example, Western's student information system programs contain over 1 million lines of computer code, not all of which are actively used at once. So problems may lurk for months in little-used sections of Western's digital superstructure.

"We'll catch little things, I'm sure," Johnson said.

Since Jan. 1, the administrative computing staff has found two or three very minor problems, like reports dated 1900 instead of 2000, but nothing that involved important calculations, he said.

Preparing for Y2K took lots of work and attention, but it wasn't wasted, Johnson said.

"The problem was real, but we were prepared."

—Herald reporter Rex Hall Jr.
contributed to this story.

Need help?

If you think your computer on Western's network is having a Y2K problem, call the Information Technology Help desk at 745-7000.

Hill on a wire

By ALICIA CARMICHAEL
The Daily News

acarmichael@bgdailynews.com/783-3234

The Hill is wired.

Each of Western Kentucky University's 15,000 students has Internet access and an e-mail account, thanks to the university.

Students can e-mail their parents or send assignments to professors via e-mail attachments.

"It's one of the best and fastest ways students have to communicate with each other and faculty," said Richard Kirchmeyer, Western's vice president for information technology.

Some universities have had problems with students abusing their Internet privileges, but Western's office of information technology has not detected abuse.

That could be because the university monitors e-mail use constantly and has a strict technology policy, Kirchmeyer said.

"If anything, any excessive use, pops up, we notice it right away," he said. "We can trace it right down to an individual desktop device."

Colleges including Oregon State University have had problems with students spending hours downloading countless megabytes of illegal digital music onto their personal computers through the music trading program Napster.

Napster has become a flashpoint in campus technology conflicts because of its possible illegal uses and because excessive use of the program can affect a system's bandwidth.

Clogging bandwidth can slow communications and cost Internet service providers lots of cash, Kentucky Info Web Inc. President Rittling said.

Western students use Napster, but it isn't being abused at the university, Kirchmeyer said.

Western freshman Dylan Croslin of Union doesn't know anyone who abuses the system, he said.

Croslin uses his campus e-mail account to send and receive photos and forwarded items from friends. He wouldn't bother if it weren't for e-mail, he said.

"I wouldn't use the (U.S.) mail," he said. "That's why I use e-mail. It's free. Then I don't have to use stamps."

Freshman Jacob Gabbard of Woodbury uses his e-mail account to keep in touch with his parents in Butler County.

"It's cheaper than calling long-distance, and it's pretty easy to just sit there and type away," he said.

Such e-mail uses are appropriate, Kirchmeyer said.

What is not appropriate is e-mail bullying, which Western faculty and staff have been guilty of in the past, Kirchmeyer said, explaining that an e-mailer can send a message to all faculty or all staff.

"Sometimes the medium becomes a bully pulpit, and I think that's inappropriate," he said.

Kirchmeyer said e-mail used to discuss business matters should be as professional as mail sent through the U.S. Postal Service.

"It's a part of business, just like letter-writing is," he said. "It should be responded to accordingly."

WKU launches web information service

By Earlene Chelf

Bowling Green, – Need information about job opportunities, recreational activities, or where to research your family tree? Let me give you a TIP.

TIP stands for Topper InfoPortal, a recently launched, web-based information service developed by Western Kentucky University Libraries and Kentucky Museum, accessed at: www.wku.edu/Library/tip

TIP was created as a public service to the community and region to provide offerings that both include and exceed what commercial Information Service Providers (ISPs) can provide. TIP is unique in its integration of all library and other resources – funded and unfunded – into a single access point, making it potentially the first “choice of portal,” and the first of its kind anywhere.

Basically, TIP consists of three

major functions:

1) “Searches” for WKU and the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual Library (KCVL) catalogs and databases and all major search engines on the web.

2) “Our picks” with over 450 selected web sites grouped under 33 useful categories, each featuring local/ regional and national/ international sites – in that order.

3) “Additional Library Resources” that include a variety

of guides to facilitate academic searches.

TIP is a one-stop searching tool. Use TIP to streamline and make searches more productive. Check out the Topper InfoPortal – TIP!

For more information, contact Haiwang Yuan, WKU Libraries’ Web Site & Virtual Library Coordinator, (270) 745-5084 or e-mail: haiwang.yuan@wku.edu

Hackers try but fail to befuddle computer system at university

■ Old system to be replaced by newer, more secure one

By JASON DOOLEY
The Daily News

MAY 23 2000
jdooley@bgdailynews.com/ 783-3244

It could have been much worse for Western Kentucky University's computer system.

Computerized records could have been copied, altered or eliminated.

But computer hackers were stopped in time.

The Western Kentucky University Climate Center Web site has been offline since the center's web server was attacked by hackers, officials said.

On Wednesday, technicians noticed the computer had been compromised as someone gained remote access, said Dave Beckley, director of network computing for Western.

After gaining access to the computer's LINUX operating system, hackers altered some system files, which denied access to some workers. The hackers also installed some software programs, one of which created a "back door" that would have allowed them to return to the system and basically have free reign of Western's computerized files, Beckley said.

No other computers were affected, he said.

"After we discovered the problem, we immediately disconnected that

computer from the network to prevent any further incidents," he said.

Network computing technicians are working with Climate Center personnel to track down and repair any remaining problems, Beckley said.

The operating system will be replaced with one with added security features. The older system made it vulnerable to hacking, said Beckley, who added that the culprits probably will not be pursued because they appear to have been operating from outside the United States.

"It will be up to the center when it goes back online," Beckley said.

Climate Center Director Glen Conner said the site will be operational again soon.

WKU looking to keep identities more secure

Richard Kirchmeyer, vice president for information technology at Western Kentucky University, has appointed a committee to study ways to eliminate using Social Security numbers to identify faculty, staff and students at Western.

Doug Smith, University Senate president, told the senators about the committee at the monthly meeting Thursday. The senate had asked for the elimination of the use of Social Security numbers due to fears of identity theft.

The committee is making some short-term moves to reduce the use of the numbers, including encouraging faculty and staff members to get new identification cards which don't have the numbers on them.

"They are very serious about this," Smith said.

The senate also directed the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee to examine the tenure and continuance policy in the Faculty Handbook to get rid of some ambiguities.

"We just need to clean that up I think," said Mike May, a geography and geology associate professor, who made the motion.

Daily News Feb 21, 2003

WKU working to curb file-sharing

Crackdown on digital piracy stems from school's accountability under Digital Millennium Copyright Act

By SCOTT SISCO
The Daily News

Like many other Internet service providers, Western Kentucky University is dealing with digital piracy.

Various organizations and companies that represent music and movies contact ISPs with Internet addresses of people sharing copyrighted material. Under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, the ISPs must stop those users from sharing the material, which includes music and movie files. It doesn't apply to students who download songs or movies, only those who share the files.

"We go out and find users that have the material that (the companies) own the copyright to," said Brandon Vincent, network security specialist for Western.

The companies send the university a letter requesting that the users be taken off the network.

"We do our best to contact the student," Vincent said.

Vincent then asks the student to stop sharing the files. Western hasn't had a repeat offender.

"They don't understand that it's illegal or they don't understand that anyone cares," Vincent said.

Some of the students even thank Vincent for pointing the problem out to them. Many students aren't aware they are sharing files. Many peer-to-peer programs are set up with sharing set as the default, said Dave Beckley, director of network computing.

"Some of the students don't realize that's what's happening," Beckley said. "That's a configuration setting that they can change on their machine. They just don't know to do it."

Vincent said Western averages about one request from one of these companies a day. Sometimes several days will pass without a request, then 10 or 20 will come in on one day.

If the university didn't stop the students from sharing the files, it could be held liable, or the student could face more seri-

ous trouble.

"We're handling that internally," Beckley said.

When the students stop sharing files, Western doesn't pursue the situation any further, he said.

Students aren't taken off the network unless Vincent has problems finding the student. He only gets an Internet protocol address, not a name, from the company with the complaint.

"When it's not easy to find that person, sometimes I have to remove that person from the network," Vincent said.

When the student calls in, Vincent then explains what the problem is and how to correct it.

"If they comply, we put them back on," he said.

Network computing doesn't police the network. The only time the department takes action is when complaints are received or activity takes place that impacts the performance of the network.

"We do not track what they do," Beckley said.

Program offers Weyerhaeuser employees chance to earn associate's degrees online

By SCOTT SISCO
The Daily News MAY 27 2003

Employees of Weyerhaeuser Corp. next week will begin working toward associate's degrees from Western Kentucky University's Bowling Green Community College.

These 20 to 25 employees are the first in an online degree program partnership. The program will offer an associate's degree in business technology with an emphasis on manufacturing management.

The first group, which will consist of employees from many of the Weyerhaeuser facilities, has been identified as future leaders of the company, said Anthony Garcia, director at Weyerhaeuser's Technical Education Center. The program will make the employees better qualified to lead the company.

None of the classes will be face-to-face, but they will be the same as those Western already offers at the community college, with a few exceptions. Professors teaching the classes have been in contact with Weyerhaeuser departments to use on-the-job examples that employees would be seeing at work, according to Beth Laves,

distributed learning coordinator for Western.

Dawn Bolton, associate professor of Business and Computer Studies at the community college, is coordinating the program. She said some of these employees have not been in school in 20 years.

"They're very excited about it," she said. "I think it's going to be a good program for everybody."

Plant managers will serve as proctors for placement tests and final exams, Bolton said.

"The support there has been phenomenal as well," she said.

The community college offers a business technology degree at the campus, but this is the first online version, Bolton said.

A second group will begin in January. More than 120 employees have expressed interest in starting then, but only 25 will be accepted, Garcia said.

"Between now and November, we'll go through the registration process," he said.

Weyerhaeuser is also planning an orientation for those students in November to meet with Western officials and learn about the program.

The program is only open to Weyerhaeuser's packaging division right now.

"At some point, I would not be surprised if it were opened up to everyone company-wide," Garcia said.

The company has a large pool of interested candidates.

"I think we're going to see that continue ...," Garcia said.

Weyerhaeuser reimburses students 80 percent of the tuition and pays for books and other fees, Garcia said.

Western and Weyerhaeuser are working on a bachelor's program also.

"It's the next phase of the program," Garcia said.

He said the bachelor's degree program should be finalized by late fall.

Weyerhaeuser employees will take three courses each semester and should complete the program in two years.

Weyerhaeuser has two box-manufacturing facilities and a technical education center in Bowling Green. The company's packaging division has 104 plants that employ about 15,000 in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

DEC 19 2004

DAILY NEWS, BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Western to forgo private information in directory

By COURTNEY CRAIG
The Daily News

Citing privacy concerns, Western Kentucky University has chosen to omit students' residences and employees' home addresses and phone numbers from its 2004-05 telephone directory.

It was an option in previous years for students, faculty and staff to omit personal information if they wish, but this year it is not included for anyone.

"We made that decision to help protect the privacy of students and faculty who wish it," said Bob Edwards, assistant vice president for university relations. "We felt that in this day and age, it's not prudent to include home addresses or campus addresses or off-campus addresses."

A committee made up of representatives from the registrar's office, information technology, university relations, the publications department and other areas made the phone book decision.

"It's sort of a cross-section of several areas," Edwards said.

Western's phone book is not published at the university; it is published by Chapel Hill, N.C.-based University Directories, which publishes phone books for 125 universities across the United States. University Directories sells advertising to pay for

the cost of printing the books; there is no cost to Western.

"We sell advertising locally, and that covers the cost of production," said John O'Brien, president of University Directories. "The university pays nothing."

About 12,000 directories were printed this year for Western. They are distributed through every residence hall, and copies are available in the student center and different academic buildings. A directory is also available online.

Other universities in Kentucky have various policies for their directories. The University of Kentucky in Lexington still lists students' residences, but does not list home addresses for faculty.

The University of Louisville lists home information for students, faculty and staff only if they allow it. Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond lists all home information for everyone.

Northern Kentucky University in Highland Heights has moved to an online-only directory; it doesn't print a book anymore. The online version lists students' addresses both on- and off-campus, but only the office locations and numbers for faculty and staff.

MAR 12 2006

Online class enrollment is growing

By BRIAN WHITE

The Daily News

bwhite@bgdailynews.com/783-3243

For students who return to college after they have married and settled down with a mortgage, school can be a matter of working during the day and going to class at night, with long drives in between.

That's what Logan County resident Jennifer Wilcutt went through when she decided to leave a career in marketing to get her bachelor's in elementary education from Western Kentucky University.

Wilcutt, who already had a bachelor's in business from the University of Kentucky, finished her degree at Western in December 2002, and is now a teacher at Olmstead Elementary.

Now, she's had to return to Western for her master's degree, but has traded the one-hour drive to the school for a much shorter commute: to wherever her laptop computer is.

"I can travel with my laptop and wireless

See ONLINE, 7A

ONLINE, from 1A

modern, and log on from anywhere," Wilcutt said.

She is one of a growing number of students at Western who are taking classes over the Internet.

Web classrooms are expanding at both traditional universities and at for-profit schools like the University of Phoenix. The budget bill signed by President Bush last month changed financial-aid rules to allow students at schools that are mostly online to qualify for assistance.

Western began offering courses online in 1998, and there were 35 course enrollments then, said Robert Wyatt, Western's director of distance learning.

Now, there are about 9,000 such enrollments in a semester, he said. It is difficult to gauge how many actual students that represents, because some students are enrolled in more than one course at once, in addition to other factors.

Western offers several degree programs that take place entirely online. This includes Wilcutt's master's degree in library media education, which trains school librarians.

Of Western's six online master's degrees, four are in education, one is in business administration and the sixth is in biology. The school also offers several certificate and undergraduate programs entirely online.

Teachers are ideal candidates for online master's programs, Wyatt said.

"Teachers, after teaching a certain amount of time, they have to earn a master's degree and they have to do it while they work," Wyatt said.

This can mean long drives like Wilcutt's for teachers who do not live in the same town as a university with a master's in education program.

There are still deadlines for homework and projects in online courses. But students have a lot more flexibility about when to do their learning within the time-frames set by professors, said Don Swoboda, dean of Western's division of extended learning and outreach, under which online programs are coordinated.

"You don't have to meet on Tuesday night at six o'clock," Swoboda said.

This is important for adult students, who usually have responsibilities that tie them to a particular place, unlike their traditional-college-age counterparts, Swoboda said.

"Most of our adults cannot go full time," Swoboda said. "They cannot become 18- to 22-year-olds."

Wilcutt said the online option has made her life much easier than it would be if she had to drive to Western. Students use a

"Everyone likes the convenience of taking the classes at home in their pajamas."

Marge Maxwell
Western Kentucky University professor

variety of online technology, including a program called Blackboard, to communicate with professors.

"You can log on from any computer and check the Blackboard or check your e-mail and basically work from anywhere," said Wilcutt, who wants to work as a school librarian once she completes her degree.

One of Wilcutt's professors, Marge Maxwell, said most of her students like the flexibility of online learning.

"Everyone likes the convenience of taking the classes at home in their pajamas," Maxwell said.

For Maxwell and other professors, teaching online classes has shifted from a matter of lectures to providing lots of reading material, pointing students to online resources and answering questions sent in by e-mail.

And students want answers quickly.

"E-mail, I pretty much do it seven days a week," Maxwell said. "Since it's online, students pretty much expect you to be right there. If they're face-to-face they'll wait for class."

On Blackboard, professors can also create discussion boards, where students can ask and answer questions, creating an online surrogate for classroom discussion.

"They really like that," Maxwell said. "It creates more of a community of learners."

The undergrad experience

Some undergraduate students at Western also said the online classes are convenient, but that they preferred real classrooms to the online version.

Sophomore Jamie Fogg, 19, said it can be harder to get a good explanation of a concept via e-mail.

"When you have a professor giving the information and you don't understand it, they can give it to you 10 different ways until you do understand it," said Fogg, a hotel, restaurant and tourism management major.

She has taken three online classes, none of which had an in-class alternative. Although Fogg does not like the format's lack of in-person contact, it was nice to do work any time of day, she said.

"I can do it at two in the morning," she said.

Another tourism student, junior J.P. Bonaguro, said the convenience of doing work any time and not having to drive to campus did not make up for his own distaste for the online classes.

"I just don't like them," Bonaguro said. "I can't stand them. I'd take an eight o'clock class over an online class any day."

Bonaguro said the in-class give-and-take with the professor and among students helped teach the material better.

"Being in the classroom, you get a lot more out of the material," he said.

Most undergraduates at Western take advantage of an online class at some point while they are at Western, Swoboda said.

"A large portion of our resident students take a course or two online to take advantage of the flexibility," he said.

Two bachelor's degrees are offered entirely online, but the idea of a totally online experience is one that works mainly for older students in master's programs, Swoboda said.

"If it wouldn't be for adults, I really don't think we would see a lot of full-degree programs on the Web," he said.

For-profit schools

In February, the federal budget passed by Congress included a new rule that allows students at schools that offer more than 50 percent of classes online to apply for federal financial aid.

This rule largely affects for-profit universities that offer degrees to working adults, such as the University of Phoenix.

Because Western's master's programs cater mostly to teachers, a niche that the for-profits do not usually train in, Swoboda said the new rule would not create much extra competition.

Also, even though anyone in the world can complete Western's online degree programs, most of the students tend to be fairly local and have a good regard for Western, he said.

"Most of our students are from Kentucky and most of our students are from this part of the state," Swoboda said.

It is unlikely that traditional colleges like Western will ever become mostly online programs like the for-profits, because going to college is a socializing experience that is important, Swoboda said.

"A lot of students and their families still want the full collegiate experience," Swoboda said. And he thinks that's the way it should be.

"I would hope that for traditional-aged students that there will always be a campus experience," Swoboda said.

From Page 1A

Information age provides lawyers with more tools

Digital technology has forced this alteration to long-standing rules of evidence, which were designed to restrict eavesdropping for telephone or personal conversations, he said.

Computer forensic evidence is the equivalent of electronic DNA or fingerprints, Ramsey said, and an attorney can request any digital document as long as it is relevant to the case.

"It was tedious and time consuming," Ramsey said, remembering the paper-filled days of pre-electronic discovery. "I had a big antitrust case that had 5,000 to 6,000 documents."

Then the personal computer came into existence and changed everything.

"Now nearly all information is stored electronically, and electronic discovery is the cutting edge of discovery," Ramsey said.

Records are obtained through forensic searches of computers — think autopsy of a hard drive.

There are a number of advantages and disadvantages of digital records. It shows every draft of a document and keeps a record of exactly who created them, Ramsey said, and can be critical during a trial.

"In the old days you would have one copy of a document and maybe a draft that had been marked up," he said.

Yet retrieving documents from computers can be very expensive, and the number of documents in a number of cases can go from a few to thousands, Ramsey said. In addition, the records can be found in all sorts of electronic devices.

"Any sort of device can have electronic records, including your iPod," he said.

In a lawsuit, the attorneys are searching for all potential items that could contain information, Ramsey said.

"There are multiple sources of data and all kind of ways to get at it," he said.

The longer that information is on a computer, the larger chance there is the information will be corrupted, Ramsey said. During a criminal or civil case, the quicker access can be gained to a computer, the better.

He recalled a lawsuit in which a company fired its chief financial officer because he had been stealing \$300,000 to \$400,000 per year from the company, he said. During the 45-minute drive to the CFO's home to retrieve his laptop computer, his wife had been able to corrupt all the documents from that computer, forcing investigators to look elsewhere for evidence.

"In that case, 45 minutes meant an awful lot," he said.

During the forensics process, the person examining the computer must make an exact copy of the hard drive and document each step they take for court, Ramsey said.

These experts look in areas such as the computer's deleted files, unallocated space and ambient data for potential evidence, using searches designed by either the criminal prosecutor or civil plaintiff attorney, he said. They also look at "file slack" where memory dumps and temporary files are stored on the hard drive.

Technology affecting law

Attorney details forensic changes

By BURTON SPEAKMAN Apr. 5.
The Daily News

bspeakman@bgdailynews.com/783-3240 2007

Advances in technology are changing the way law is written, interpreted and practiced, according to a Nashville attorney who specializes in electronic discovery.

William T. Ramsey of Neal and Harwell, PLC, spoke to a group of students and guests Wednesday afternoon at Western Kentucky University in the class of Jim Lindsey, a computer information systems instructor.

Recent changes to federal rules have altered forensic discovery — the electronic documentation used in trials, Ramsey said.

The courts have changed rules to disallow someone to intercept e-mails or other electronic data from a computer that is not their own, he said — for a while, courts said that, because the person intercepting the information had only made a copy and had not stopped the information from being sent, it was allowed.

See INFORMATION, 5A

Western: Hacker sent mass e-mail alleging corruption

By NATALIE JORDAN
The Daily News

Western Kentucky University is still tracking a mishap with its e-mail system.

An unidentified person allegedly hacked into the university's e-mail system, sending an anonymous letter from the provost's secretary's account and the WKU news account. The e-mail, sent Saturday morning, alluded to alleged corruption on Western's part against international students.

"The accounts were accessed by someone other than the authorized account holders and used without consent," said Bob Skipper, media relations director, in an e-mailed response. "WKU has confirmed that the messages were not initiated or distributed with the consent or knowledge of the account holders. Members of WKU's information technology staff are investigating the matter."

The e-mail states that a small group of international scholars are being treated unfairly by the university.

It also states that when they arrive, these exchange visitors are housed in property owned or rented by the director of the Institute for Combustionable Science and Environmental Technology, Wei-ping Pan, and they pay rent and utility costs directly to him.

However, according to Tim Rainwaters with the Warren County Public Valuation Administrator's office, the only property Pan owns is the home he lives in.

According to the e-mail: "It seems that he (Pan) makes a profit in this process while underpaying these highly qualified employees by competitive university standards. There are language and cultural barriers that are used to

his advantage. These people do not know where to go or what to do other than what they are told by this person and his subordinates."

Pan is in China and was not available for comment.

The e-mail, sent from two separate accounts, was sent to numerous outlets, including all the faculty and staff at the university, the Daily News, WBKO and several government agencies.

Skipper said it didn't appear that all faculty and staff received the e-mail.

But Deborah Wilkins, general counsel for WKU, did receive it. She said in working closely with ICSET, they are in compliance as far as the safety aspects go. From the personnel side of it, if there have been complaints, Wilkins said she is sure the director of human resources would respond to that.

The e-mail stated the director of human resources, Tony Glisson, "condones and encourages this behavior by supporting the management without validating the numerous complaints of the employees."

Glisson is out of the office until Friday and was not available for comment.

Skipper said that if the offending party is identified, he or she may face disciplinary action and criminal prosecution. Also, he said e-mail users are encouraged to periodically change passwords and to not use passwords that can be easily guessed.

"I put little credence in anonymous e-mails, and secondly, I question the character of anyone that would hack into someone else's system to send an e-mail like this," Wilkins said. "It's a violation of our internal policies and state law."

Business suffering through summer

Enrollment declines at WKU's
main campus leaving some
proprietors with less traffic

By AMERAH CETAWAYO SEP 04 2007
The Daily News

acetawayo@bgdailynews.com/783-3246

There are mixed views from some business owners in Bowling Green about whether decreasing summer enrollment for Western Kentucky University's main campus is impacting industry.

But for Craig Eversoll, who owns several dining and entertainment establishments in the city, this summer provided an example he couldn't ignore.

"We saw a big impact this summer, especially

with the stadium being built," said Eversoll, who

owns Motor City Bar and Grill, Froggy's Pizza, The Brewing Company and The Basement, Goodyrnes II and The Deuce, which is set to reopen at the end of September or the first of October.

Eversoll said WKU used to host a military camp that came in and lasted several weeks.

"We were a source of their entertainment usually. We lost that with the construction of the stadium," Eversoll said. "We've also seen a decline with students staying here, with WKU opening up their satellite campuses. Some of these campuses have been opened up in the summertime and that's really impacted my summertime business because there hasn't been that enrollment here to bring in the revenue for local businesses in Bowling Green."

Eversoll said his summer business used to be the busiest time of year, but within the last three years, he has noticed a decline in revenue.

"I've seen my numbers decline," Eversoll said, adding that gas prices have gone up as well, so there are some other factors involved with his figures.

According to Western's Office of Institutional Research, as WKU expands its regional campus and online course offerings, figures show face-to-face enrollment is decreasing on Western's main campus.

In the summer of 2003, there were 7,645 course

"We've also seen a decline with students staying here, with WKU opening up their satellite campuses ... there hasn't been that enrollment here to bring in the revenue for local businesses in Bowling Green."

Craig Eversoll

Owner of several area bars and restaurants

See WESTERN, 6A

From Page 1A

Western seeing major increases in use of online courses during summer months

enrollments, but in the summer of 2006, enrollments were only at 6,107, according to WKU research analyst Gina Huff.

"Summer enrollment on a face-to-face basis is trending down across the board," Huff said.

According to WKU registrar Freida Eggleton, more than 3,600 students were enrolled last fall in one of WKU's regional campuses in Glasgow, Owensboro and Elizabethtown.

The increase in regional campus enrollment is the result of "the promotion of the availability of education at these regional centers, along with a concentrated effort to offer the type of courses that students want," Eggleton said.

According to Western's Fact Book, the Glasgow campus accounted for 62 percent of regional campus enrollments, followed by Owensboro and Elizabethtown at 19 percent each.

Within the past five years, regional course enrollments have increased by 24 percent, from 7,126 in 2002 to 8,815 in 2006.

But the real story is that WKU's summer Web course enrollment has grown exponentially, according to Huff.

Within the past five years, WKU has seen a 114 percent increase in summer course enroll-

ment via the Web, with 1,633 enrollments in summer 2003 compared to the preliminary course enrollments of 3,500 for summer 2007.

"So that is really where we're seeing an increase in enrollment," Huff said, point out that Web courses can be taken from wherever a student has a Internet connection – the university doesn't track where a student lives while he or she takes a Web course.

Web course enrollments in the regional campus service area have tripled since fall 2002, according to Western's Fact Book.

Huff said there is a possibility that students are going home to take Web courses – but there's also the possibility they are not.

For Robert Hall, owner of the University Textbook and Supply Store at 111 Old Morgantown Road, increasing summer enrollment – no matter where students are living – has helped his book sales.

"I had an increase in '07 over '06, but I can't swear if people aren't buying them and taking them back home," Hall said. "There are more kids in summer school then in the past."

Hall said more students have to take summer classes to even attempt graduating from college

in a timely manner.

"You almost can't get out in four years if you don't take some summer classes," Hall said.

Hall, a 1989 Western grad, said he's noticed that more students are staying in Bowling Green on the weekends.

"I think that Western's done a pretty good job of keeping students here," Hall said. "Before it was a suitcase college."

Hall said weekends are just as important to Bowling Green as the summer is for its student business.

"If everybody were to leave town during the weekend, it would have the same impact of people leaving during the summer," Hall said.

Hall opened the Lemox Book company in 1989 and operated it until November 2005, before opening the University Textbook Store in December 2005.

Economist Bill Davis, who chairs Western's economics department and is part author of a study of the economic impact of Western on the region, said he has seen summer enrollment remain stable for the economics department, despite the addition of Western's winter term.

"I expected the winter terms to result in some decrease in enrollment in the summer, but in the last

two summers, that has not materialized," Davis said.


Some of the preliminary findings by Davis and Jerry Gottlieb, an associate professor of marketing, show students in a year spent \$31 million on off-campus food, \$29 million for housing, \$9.5 million on utilities, \$9 million for gasoline and clothing, and \$4 million on electronics. The researchers examined the "income, spending patterns, employment and other aspects of economic life of members of the WKU community" during the 2005-2006 academic year.

For the economics department, Davis agrees with the trend of increasing online courses offered by Western.

"We're finding that many students understandably take the opportunity to take online courses that are appropriate, especially in the summer," Davis said. "They can work and earn money and also complete a course."

Davis said another factor to keep in mind as far as how enrollments may affect local industry is that business could be actually shifting around.

"Business may not be lower, but it may be more of a seasonal factor here that is emerging," Davis said.

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More RIAA Settlement Letters Hit Campuses

December 07, 2007 - Legal and Management

By Susan Butler, N.Y.

The RIAA sent its 11th wave of pre-litigation settlement letters on behalf of major labels to university campuses this week. The latest group of letters, intended to alert illegal file-sharers that they've been spotted using campus networks, total 396 sent to 22 university administrators. This brings the total to 4,553 letters sent since the initiative began last February.

As in the past, the RIAA asks university administrators to identify specific users of the universities' computer networks -- whom the RIAA identifies only by their IP addresses as having shared unauthorized music files -- and to forward the letters to those users.

The users will then have the opportunity to settle the copyright infringement claims before "John Doe" lawsuits are filed against them. If lawsuits are filed, the users will be identified and named as defendants, which may have a negative impact on their future employment, credit and professional license applications.

The latest letters were sent in the following quantities to: Auburn University (13 pre-litigation settlement letters); Brandeis University (12); Georgia Institute of Technology (16); Gustavus Adolphus College (36); Indiana State University (18); Iowa State University (13); Ithaca College (15); Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (16); Louisiana Tech University (15); Mississippi State University (15); Morehead State University (17); Rochester Institute of Technology (12); University of Arizona (14); University of California, Davis (14); University of California, San Diego (17); University of California, Santa Cruz (24); University of Dayton (16); University of Massachusetts at Amherst (30); University of Rochester (15); University of Southern California (33); University of Washington (16); and Western Kentucky University (19).

"The record industry is partnering with a variety of innovative services to offer fans an extraordinary array of musical experiences and generate new business opportunities," says Jonathan Lamy, RIAA senior VP communications. "A number of the legal options available to students at a free or deeply discounted rate even include added social networking features, music videos, and movies. For those who ignore these great legal options and ignore years of warnings, we will continue to bring lawsuits. It's not our first choice, but it's a necessary part of the equation."

Links referenced within this article

Legal and Management
http://www.billboard.biz/bbbiz/industry/legal_management.jsp

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Wireless networks valuable

By NATALIE JORDAN

The Daily News

Western Kentucky University's wireless network – referred to as the Mobile Learning Network – has provided convenient access to many of the same resources as the wired network, including Internet e-mail, Blackboard and the Internet – making it a valuable tool for student learning.

"Students don't have to be physically tethered to a desktop or laptop connected with a wire to our network," said Richard Kirchmeyer, vice president for Information Technology at WKU. "They can be anywhere on campus. It's like instead of having to drive to the mall to buy something, you are always in the mall so you can buy things whenever you need them."

"So, theoretically, they can receive educational materials and have access to services online whenever they need them."

Since 2005, the Division of Information Technology has been working to implement campus-wide wireless network services. With the wireless network now in place, the university is moving to the next plateau, which is using the wireless network to provide more value to students, faculty and staff. The university is looking to add handheld devices – like iPhones, iPods/Touches and Blackberrys – to its wireless network.

To do this, Kirchmeyer said the university has to provide interfaces between the handheld devices and the Student System and Learning Management System, among others.

"Since all of those systems require authentication, we will have to come with a verifiable and seamless way to handle that handshaking between the handheld devices and the university systems," he said.

Kirchmeyer said the first step is finding out what devices students have, which they are in the process of doing using an IT survey of the students. He said then they have to find out how students and faculty want to use the university systems with their handheld devices, which is done through activities such as focus groups, surveys, interviews and observations.

"That is an ongoing process that never stops, because new technology never stops and our systems are continually changing," he said.

Sophomore political science major Kayla Shelton, 20, of Galatin, Tenn., said she thinks it's great the university is thinking about the students.

"I really appreciate their forethought," she said. "And with most students having laptops and doing more with handheld devices, the network is a great technology to have."

As of March, 926 access points, 92 switches and more than 41 miles of cable have been deployed during the rollout of wireless services, Kirchmeyer said. During a typical week, more than 2,000 unique wireless devices connect to the network.

"We currently have about 3,000 log-ins per week on our wireless network, and that number is

increasing as more and more students bring laptops to campus," Kirchmeyer said.

The wireless network access is currently available throughout most academic and administrative buildings and some outdoor areas, like the North and South lawns.

"It's a great to be able to go sit on South Lawn or wherever on campus with a computer when it's nice outside and work on whatever," Shelton said.

The network is also available in the lobby areas of all residence halls and in some residence hall living areas.

Shelton said she uses her laptop a lot, and having a wireless network at the university has been "very convenient" for her. She said she uses the network when she is in Downing University Center or her dormroom, which allows her to be mobile without being disconnected from the Internet.

"Without wireless I wouldn't be able to do that," she said.

The university is in the process of wiring Colonial Court, Farm Outdoors, Main Campus out-door, McCormack Hall, Radcliffe and Rock House.

Going wireless for new and upgraded construction depends on when the projects will start, Kirchmeyer said. He said as many construction or upgrade projects are coming online over the next few years, implementing the wireless network will be taking place.

The university will work the residence halls in progress each semester as funds become available from Student Residence Life.

"I use the university's wireless network, a student's or faculty's information has to be in the university's system."

"We must protect our systems from being hacked, and our students and employees from having their identities stolen, or our systems used for illegal or improper reason," Kirchmeyer said.

Wireless services have become an integral part of the college experience, giving students and faculty round-the-clock access to data. For example, Kirchmeyer said students can find a grade or a class to register for, get a handout that the instructor posted online or find out a class has just been canceled.

The system, he said, provides the campus community access to educational materials and services from anywhere on campus, any time of the day.

And this is perfect for commuter student, said Chanley Pride, director of student activities and organization. Pride said commuter students can do what they need to on their laptops, and they don't have to go to a specific lab to do it.

"It gives them some flexibility," Pride said. "The network allows them an opportunity to set up in different places."

Pride said many students on Western's campus take advantage of the university's wireless network – especially in the DUC – whether it's studying or using Facebook.

"I think this is one of the best things they've done for us," Shelton said.